



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 25 2004

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed proposal to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. These amendments would enable the United States to join and implement three critical international environmental treaties.

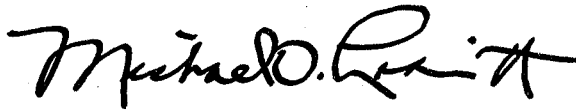
Ratification or acceptance of these treaties, along with the enactment of implementing legislation, will reaffirm our commitment to promote environmental health and safety worldwide. On May 17, 2004, the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* will enter into force since the requisite 50 countries have indicated their consent to be bound. The *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade* and the *Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution* are already in force.

While the United States already has authority to meet many of the FIFRA-related obligations of the three treaties, these proposed amendments would allow us to meet all the FIFRA-related obligations of the treaties. The enclosed legislation would also enable the United States to join future convention amendments that are consistent with U.S. law and policy and help us maintain our leadership in the international chemical and pesticide arena.

This legislation remains a priority of the Administration's international environmental agenda. As President Bush has stated, the risks from these pollutants are great, and the need for swift action is clear. Thank you for your prompt and thoughtful consideration of the targeted changes in the proposed bill, which the Office of Management and Budget advises would be in accord with the program of the President.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

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Michael O. Leavitt

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 25 2004

The Honorable Charles W. Stenholm
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stenholm:

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Michael O. Leavitt

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 25 2004

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
And Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed proposal to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. These amendments would enable the United States to join and implement three critical international environmental treaties.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 25 2004

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
And Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

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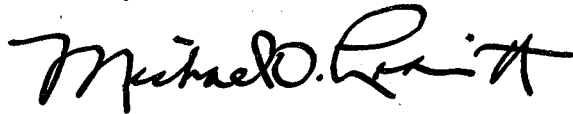
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